missions and District Forums in some of the State|UTs are as follows:

Name of the State	Cases including appeals pending in State Commissions	Cases pending District Forums
1. Andhra Pradesh	1565	10,085
2. Arunachal Pradesh	3	13
3. Madhya Pradesh	186	4,284
4. Punjab	206	4,468
5. Sikkim	1	0
6. A&N Islands	..	9
7. Delhi	847	4,509
8. Lakshadweep	0	2

(d) and (e) The Working Group which was constituted for suggesting suitable amendments to make the Consumer Protection Act more effective, has recommended to set up more than one District Forum in a district. The recommendation is under consideration of the Government.

Consumer Redressal Fora

2299. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the State Governments have set up the Consumer Redressal fora in the country;

(b) if not, the names of the states which do not have such forum;

(c) the amount of money granted for consumer welfare fund during the last three years;

(d) what effective measures Government have taken to ensure proper utilisation of the fund for the protection of the interests of consumers;

(e) whether the implementation of the consumer protection is reviewed from time to time; and

(f) if so, when was the last review conducted and what are the details of such review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) All States|UTs except Meghalaya have set up the consumer redressal fora. In Meghalaya also, the State Commission and 5 District Forums have been notified but they have not started functioning.

(c) and (d) The Consumer Welfare Fund Rules came into force from 25th November 1992. As per information available, more than Rs. 2 crores have since been credited to the Fund. The Government has constituted a Working Group under the aegis of the Central Consumer Protection Council to suggest suitable guidelines to utilise the Consumer Welfare Fund.

(e) and (f) The implementation of the Consumer Protection is reviewed in every meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council. So far, 12 meetings of the Council have been held and the last meeting was held on 19.1.1993. In the last meeting, the subjects of the enforcement of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Consumer Welfare Fund were discussed.

Prices of essential commodities

2300. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the increase/decrease in the prices of essential commodities during April, 1992-January, 1993;

(b) the manner in which these compare with the increase/decrease during the same period of 1991-92; and

(c) the steps being taken to control rise in prices of essential commodities/consumer goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of selected essential commodities during April, 92-Jan. 93 and April, 91-Jan. 92 is attached (*See* below).

(c) The Government is taking every possible step to control the prices of essential commodities within reasonable limits. Towards this end, a Cabinet Committee on Prices (CCP) and a Special Action Committee of Secretary on Monitoring of Prices (SACP) are functioning to review the price situation in the country and to take appropriate steps to keep the rise in prices of essential commodities under check. Public Distribution System is being strengthened and streamlined to reach its benefits even to remote, far-flung, hilly and inaccesible areas. Steps are also being taken to implement the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other statutory regulations to punish the antisocial elements including hoarders, black marketeers etc. The commodities which are in short supply such as rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils, etc. are being imported to make their easy availability in the market. Based on the input cost the Government has been announcing higher minimum support/procurement prices of agro-based products. There has been a higher production of Kharif Crops and nearly record production of Edible Oil seeds. As a result of all these measures, the annual rate of inflation, measured in terms of percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Index has come down to 7.3 per cent as on 20.2.1993 from 13.6 per cent as on 28.3.1992 and 14.6 per cent as on 30.11.1991.